

## Hope for lasting peace in South Sudan

Mission 21 is hosting an online panel discussion with two peace activists:

**Monday, September 21, 2020, 5 – 6.30 pm on Zoom [Log-in here](#)** (Meeting ID: 976 3503 2710, identification code: 457996)

**Father James Oyet Latansio**, General Secretary of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), and  
**Rajab Mohandis**, Executive Director of the Organization for Responsive Governance (ORG)  
**Joane Holliger**, Human Security Advisor for the Swiss Government

On the International Day of Peace, we will discuss the reasons why the peace process in South Sudan has stalled repeatedly. Where does the peace process currently stand and what are the prospects for sustainable peace? Why are there still armed conflicts and serious human rights violations despite the peace agreement and the new unity government? What is the role of the church and civil society? And how does Switzerland support peace in South Sudan?



**Father James Oyet Latansio** is the General Secretary of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC). He is passionately committed to peace and reconciliation. The SSCC plays a crucial role in building sustainable peace through the implementation of the SSCC Action Plan for Peace, which is supported by the churches of South Sudan.



**Rajab Mohandis** is the Executive Director of the Organization for Responsive Governance (ORG) and Coordinator of the South Sudan Civil Society Forum. He is a co-signatory to the current peace agreement to resolve the conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and represents civil society in the oversight mechanism of the current peace agreement.



**Joane Holliger** is Switzerland's Human Security Advisor in South Sudan. The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) supports the South Sudan Council of Churches, traditional authorities, youth dialogues and governance programmes as part of its peacebuilding efforts.

**Facilitator:** Claudia Buess, Programme Manager, Outreach and Education Team Mission 21  
**Language:** English (without translation)

## **Background**

In February 2020 a unity government was formed in South Sudan, consisting of the various warring parties who had signed the peace agreement in 2018. It was the thirteenth attempt in six years to settle the conflict. The people in South Sudan dared to hope for a stable and secure future. For the civilian population, the price of the civil war, which raged for five years, has been devastating: serious human rights violations, about half a million dead and almost four million refugees. According to the latest UN report, well over six million people are acutely affected by famine.

Mission 21 supports the peace-building efforts of its partner church, the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS) and the Federation of South Sudanese Churches (SSCC), which launched the "Action Plan for Peace" in 2016.

Further information available [here](#)